

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

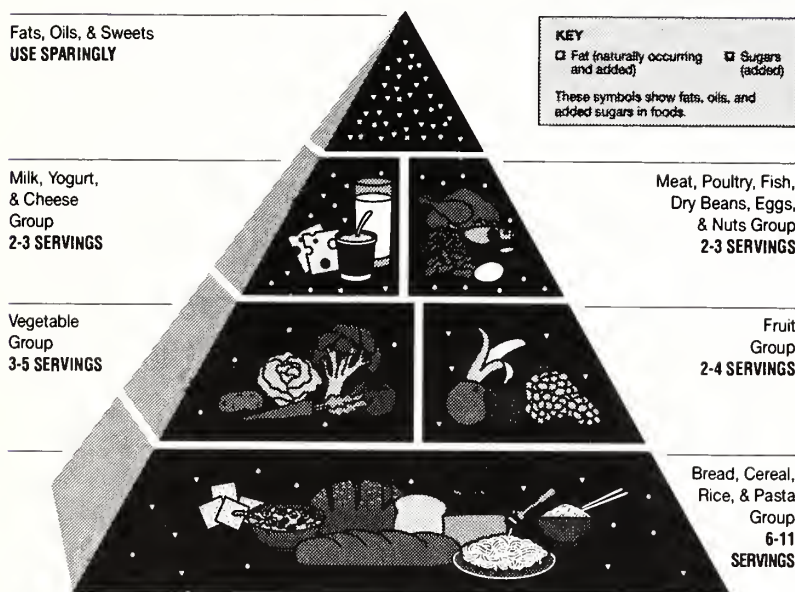
Farm Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Affairs Radio-TV Division Washington D.C. 20250 (202) 720-4330

Letter No. 2556

May 1, 1992

Food Guide Pyramid A Guide to Daily Food Choices



FOOD GUIDE PYRAMID -- You'll be seeing more of this graphic in the future. Secretary of Agriculture **Edward Madigan** intends for the pyramid to be used in a wide variety of government publications, in nutrition text books and hopefully by private sector cooperators.

ALTERNATIVE AG BOARD -- USDA's Alternative Agriculture Research and Commercialization Board will hold eight public hearings around the country in May and June. The board was set up under the 1990 Farm Bill to establish policy, implement programs and direct the activities of an independent center with USDA to expand industrial uses of farm and forest products. The board reports directly to Secretary of Agriculture **Edward Madigan**. **Martin Andreas**, vice president of marketing for Archer Daniels Midland is chairman of the board. Meetings will be: May 12 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; May 13, Atlanta, Ga.; May 14, Newark, N.J.; May 27, Portland, Ore.; May 28, Sacramento, Calif.; June 16, Bloomington, Minn.; June 17, Bonner Springs, Kans.; June 18, Irving, Texas. Contact: **Joe Roetheli** (202) 401-4860.

AQUACULTURE POISED FOR GROWTH -- Aquaculture has become a prominent industry, encompassing such products as mussels, abalone, catfish, sturgeon, alligators, ornamental fish and aquatic plants. The harvest from the catfish industry -- by far the largest sector of U.S. aquaculture -- reached a record 391 million pounds in 1991. Alligator farming is one growing sector of domestic aquaculture. Alligator farms are concentrated mainly in Louisiana and Florida. Contact: **David J. Harvey** (202) 219-0888.

ONCE CONSIDERED A NUISANCE, America's wetlands are now recognized as an integral part of a healthy ecosystem. The new Wetlands Reserve Program allows farmer to restore wetlands converted to cropland before 1985, retiring it and other eligible acreage in long-term easements. The first opportunity for farmers to sign up for enrollment is expected to take place this spring. **Contact: Henry Buist (202) 219-0426.**

1991 FOOD PRICES, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, increased 2.9 percent, the lowest increase since 1985, USDA economist **Dennis Dunham** says. Food prices at grocery stores were up 2.6 percent. Prices of restaurant meals increased 3.4 percent, the smallest increase since 1965. **Contact: Dennis Dunham (202) 219-0870.**

PER-ACRE VALUE of farmland in the U.S. increased 1 percent in 1991, USDA economists say. That is the fifth straight yearly increase. On Jan. 1, 1992, farm real estate values -- farmland and buildings -- averaged \$685 per acre, which is 14 percent above the 1987 low of \$599, but 17 percent below the record of \$823 in 1982. The largest regional increases in farm real estate values were in the five Corn Belt states, up 3 percent from 1991, and in the five Appalachian states, also up 3 percent. The largest state increases were in West Virginia, Arizona, Alabama, Illinois, Nevada, Utah and Virginia. Biggest losses were in Wyoming, Colorado and Georgia. **Contact: Roger Hexem or Fred Kuchler (202) 219-0423.**

NICKEL ESSENTIAL FOR PLANT GROWTH -- Plants must have nickel to complete their life cycle, produce viable seed or make maximum use of other elements such as iron, USDA plant physiologist **Ross M. Welch** says. Welch says these findings have made nickel the first element accepted as essential for all plants since the recognition of chlorine in 1954. One of nickel's most important roles is its effect on efficient use of urea fertilizer by plants such as tomatoes and legumes, Welch says. **Contact: Ross M. Welch (607) 255-5434.**

GRAIN PESTS TESTED -- Once banned from stored grain, the Warehouse Pirate Bug has been pardoned by the federal government. Pirate Bugs are "fierce" predators of insect pests that infest grain; they feed on insects and do not eat grain, **John H. Brower**, a USDA scientists says. Brower, who has studied natural enemies of stored grain pests for 13 years, says the Pirate Bug has a voracious appetite for grain-damaging pests. Insects like the Pirate Bug could be used as alternatives to fumigants and chemical sprays commonly used to kill insects in stored grain. **Contact: John H. Brower (912) 651-3528.**

*Editor: Marci Hilt Phone: (202) 720-6445
Fax: (202) 690-2165
Ag NewsFAX (202) 690-3944*

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1821 -- Dave Carter explores the past, present and future of the Federal Crop Insurance program. (Weekly reel -- 13-1/2 minute documentary.)

CONSUMER TIME #1303 -- The new food guide pyramid, the great snail dragnet, researching a more sustainable type of farming, getting consumer questions answered, U.S. ice cream goes abroad. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features.)

AGRITAPE NEWS & FEATURES #1812 -- USDA News Highlights; rice stocks climbing, western weather outlook, streamlining USDA. (Weekly reel of news features.)

NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1518 -- Low-calorie sugar substitute; bacterial bonanza; wasps vs. whitefly; assembly line wasps; acoustic Achilles heel. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Tues, May 5, crop/weather update; Fri., May 8, vegetable production; Mon., May 11, U.S. crop production, world ag supply/demand; Tues., May 12, crop/weather update, world cotton situation, world oilseed situation, world ag/grain situation; Thurs., May 14, outlook for CIS (former Soviet Union). (These are the USDA reports we know about in advance. Our Newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup. Please don't let the lack of a story listing keep you from calling.)

DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.

Material changed at 5 p.m., EDT, each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE

FEATURES -- Pat O'Leary takes a look at USDA's food guide pyramid; DeBoria Janifer reports on streamlining USDA; Pat O'Leary reports on the dairy outlook.

ACTUALITIES -- Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan on ag issues at the National Association of Agricultural Journalists conference in Washington, D.C.; USDA meteorologist Ray Motha on weather and crops; USDA economist Roger Hoskin on oilseeds; USDA World Board chairman James Donald on crop production.

UPCOMING FEATURES -- DeBoria Janifer reports on brucellosis eradication; Pat O'Leary reports on national forest tourism.

EVERY OTHER WEEK -- Agriculture Update, five minutes of USDA farm program information in "news desk" format with B-roll.

Available on Satellite Galaxy 6, Transponder 12D (Channel 23), audio 6.2 or 6.8: Thursdays from 7:30 - 7:45 p.m., EDT, Saturdays from 10 - 10:45 a.m., EDT, and Mondays from 8 - 8:45 a.m., EDT.

OFFMIKE

GREAT FLOOD OF '92...that hit downtown Chicago due to a collapsed tunnel wall impacted grain trading around the world. **Orion Samuelson** and **Max Armstrong** (WGN Radio/Tribune Radio Network, Chicago, Ill.) filed frequent reports about the forced shutdown April 13-14 of the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT), the world's largest commodity futures market, and the reduced trading sessions during the weeks of April 13 and 20. They say that the catastrophe highlighted the importance of the price discovery market provided by the CBOT. Grain trade was at a standstill in Rotterdam, a decline in volume was noted on the New York Stock Exchange, and many U.S. elevators did not buy grain because they couldn't price or hedge their buys. Orion and Max kept their listeners informed about the timing and length of trading sessions.

STALE BED METHOD...of minimum tillage has proven beneficial to cotton producers in the area served by **Chris Kimbell** (KNOE, Monroe, La.). Reduced disturbance of the soil saves moisture. That was helpful when planting began in mid-April. Chris says producers using standard tillage methods needed rain to get their crops underway.

Farm Broadcasters Letter



Office of Public Affairs
Radio-TV Division
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250-1300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300

SEVERAL HUNDRED CALLS...were received by **Gary Kinnett** (WIAI, Danville, Ill.) following broadcast of a program about state loans to farmers. Illinois Treasurer **Pat Quinn** outlined the \$100,000 per borrower program of low rate loans available for any agriculturally related purpose. Gary says the loan program is an effort by the state to keep farmers on the land.

SATELLITE TRUCK...continues a busy schedule, says **Bill Ray** (Agrinet Farm Radio Network, Elizabeth City, N.C.). His crew recently broadcast live from the Virginia Beef Show, in Harrisonburg, Va., where 15,000 people attended. An overnight trip put them in Asheville, N.C., for the annual chicken festival attended by 25,000 people from all segments of the poultry industry. Bill says recent addition of affiliates solidifies the network's reach from Pennsylvania to South Carolina.

VIC POWELL
Chief, Radio and TV Division